

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05660 161710 Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ORM-03 SR-02 OMB-01 AID-20 M-03 A-01

PER-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01

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O 161450 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2172

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5660

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY - SITREP 19

SITREP 19

1. SITUATION AT 1430 Z QUIET IN BEIRUT AND OUTLYING

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05660 161710 Z

AREAS. CURFEW LIFTED TODAY FROM 0600 TO 1900 LOCAL.

AS USUAL, HOWEVER, OCCASIONAL SHOOTINGS AND EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED DURING NIGHT MAY 15-16 BOTH HERE AND IN TRIPOLI AND SIDON, DESPITE CONTINUANCE OF WIDESPREAD GOL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS NOTED OUR SITREP 14. SECURITY OFFICIALS INFORM US THEY NOW DETAINING " SEVERAL HUNDRED" PERSONS PICKED UP AS RESULT OF TIGHTENED, SECURITY MEASURES SINCE MAY 2. LATEST EXAMPLE WAS RAID BY INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES THIS MORNING ON SUSPECTED FATAH WEAPONS CACHE NEAR EMBASSY WHICH NETTED MODEST QUANTITY OF ROCKETS, GRENADES, SMALL ARMS AND MUNITIONS. AT SAME TIME, FEDAYEEN CONTINUE REINFORCE THEIR FORTIFICATIONS (INCLUDING TRENCHES AND BARRICADES) IN AND AROUND BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMPS, AND THERE ARE SIGNS THEY BEGINNING CIRCULATE OR EVEN TAKE UP POSITIONS FURTHER AFIELD IN CERTAIN OTHER MOSELEM QUARTERS (E. G., SINN EL FIL, MAQASSED, BASTA).

2. ON POLITICAL FRONT, PRES FKANGIE IN HIS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH VARIOUS LEBANESE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS STILL ADHERING FIRMLY TO HIS INSISTENCE THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR RADICAL CHANGES IN FUTURE GOL- FEDAYEEN RELATIONSHIP SHOULD PRECEDE FORMATION OF NEW LEBANESE CABINET, ALTHOUGH EFFORTS BY LOCAL LEFTIST AND SUNNI MOSLEM LEADERS TO REVERSE THIS SEQUENCE CONTINUE. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, IN MEANTIME, GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO 1969 SARG REGULATION (SIGNED BY THEN MINDEF HAFEZ ASSAD) CONTROLLING FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES IN SYRIA, TEXT OF WHICH PRES FRANGIE HAS BEEN PASSING OUT TO HIS LEBANESE AND ARAB VISITORS FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS. BEIRUT PAPERS ALSO WAXING OPTIMISTIC OVER REPORTS THAT NEWLY FORMED MIXED COMMITTEE MENTIONED OUR SITREP 18 HELD PRELIMINARY 3- HOUR MEETING MAY 15 IN WHICH DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT FINDING " NEW FORMULA" FOR FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN LEBANON WERE SAID TO HAVE FINALLY BEGUN. LEBANESE SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY ARMY COLS AHMED AL HAJ (COMMANDER NCO ACADEMY) AND DIB KAL (LONG TIME ARMY LIAISON OFFICER TO FEDAYEEN CLAP, OR REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LEBANON), LT COL SELIM MUGHABGHAB (ARMY' S CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER) AND TWO CIVILIANS (ONE JURIST PLUS HEAD OF FONOFF' S DEPT OF ARAB AFFAIRSL. FEDAYEEN REPS WERE FATAH MILITARY LEADER ABU ZA' IM, PFLP' S SALAH SALAH (FORMER MEMBER PLO EX COMM RECENTLY REPLACED BY AHMED YAMANI),
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05660 161710 Z

AND PDFLP' S " ABU ADNAN" (WHO HAS LATELY EMERGED AS THAT ORGANIZATION' S PUBLIC SPOKESMAN). REPRESENTATION ON BOTH SIDES SEEMS DECIDEDLY SECOND- ECHELON, IF NOT ACTUALLY
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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